(d) whether any funding agencies like the World Bank supported such down-sizing of the administrative expenditures of NTPC and NHPC;

(e) if so, the status of this proposal; and

(f) if no proposal for a merger is there, the steps proposed to study the advantages of a merger?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P.M. SAYEED): (a) to (f) At present, there is no proposal under consideration of the Government for merger of National Thermal Power Corporation and National Hydro-electric Power Corporation.

Hydel Power Project with joint venture with Nepal

848. SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD:
SHRI B.J. PANDA:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Nepal has agreed to set up a 300 MW hydel unit in joint venture with India, an export-oriented project;

(b) if so, the details of the project;

(c) the ratio of equity between the two countries; and

(d) the details of the regions in the country that will be served by the power so produced in the Unit?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P.M. SAYEED):(a) The possibility of development of Upper Karnali Project (300 MW) in Nepal by National Hydro-electric Power Corporation (NHPC) as an independent power producer under Hydro Power Policy of Nepal is under consideration. NHPC has sent to His Majesty's Government of Nepal (HMGN), a draft Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) proposed to be signed between HMGN and NHPC for implementation of the Upper Karnali HE Project (300 MW) on commercial basis. Response of HMGN on the above draft MoU is awaited. The issues of joint venture can be decided after getting reply from HMGN.

(B) Upper Karnali HE Project (300 MW) is run of the river project. The project is located on the Karnali River forming the boundary of the Mid-western and Far-Western development region of the Kingdom of Nepal. As per the feasibility report prepared by Canadian International Water and Energy Consultant (CIWEC) Kathmandu, Nepal submitted in June, 1988,

the project constitutes a concrete barrage with 5 radial gates, and underground powerhouse to accommodate 5x60 MW vertical francis turbine under 141m head.

The project shall annually generate 1915 GWH of energy. The total cost of the project including transmission line is US$ 486.6 million (INR 2110 crores).

(c) The ratio of equity participation will be decided after approval of MoU is received from HMGN.

(d) The details of regions in our country that will be served by Power so produced in the unit have not yet been decided.

Bureau of Energy Efficiency

849. SHRI S.M. LALJAN BASHA: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has set up a Bureau of Energy Efficiency to suggest way to save power;

(b) if so, when was this Bureau of Energy Efficiency set up;

(c) the annual cost incurred on this Bureau;

(d) what has been its contribution to the stated objectives in 2003-04;

(e) whether it is a fact that Government does not have a serious plan in place to save energy; and

(f) the steps proposed to rectify this situation?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P.M. SAYEED): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Bureau of Energy Efficiency was set up on 1st March, 2002.

(c) The annual expenditure incurred for the year 2002-2003 towards administrative and establishment expenses is Rs. 1,00,84,156/-.

(d) to (f) For achieving its objectives the Bureau of Energy Efficiency has continued its activities such as Certification of Energy Managers and Energy Auditors; Accreditation of Energy Auditors; preliminary activities for launching of Standards and Labeling Programme for consumer items as well as other electrical equipments; the preparation of energy conservation building codes and Energy Audit of certain Government buildings.